additional difficulty of finding a new pleader and giving instructions to him, and the business cannot go on immediately or smoothly. This provision exists in British India and, so far as I know, has been working with good effect. The present circular is a wholesome one, whatever hardship it may possibly work in individual cases.

**75. Early passing of the Weights and Measures Bill into law.**

*Mr. V. Sankaranarayana Iyer, B. A., B. L. (Agastiswaram), Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Tovala), Mr. Shaik Sulaiman Labba of Agastiswaram (Nominated), Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karthavu (Shertallay), Mr. Ousep Kunjavirah Tharakan (Vycome), Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (Ettumanur), Mr. K. Krishnan Pandalay, B. A., B. L., (Quilon), Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer and Mr. Sattanathan Karayalan (Shencottah), Mr. Kesavan Padmanabhan (Mavelikara), Mr. K. G. Sesha Iyer, B. A., B. L. (Central Association, Trivandrum) and Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Mathevan (Nedumangad)* prayed for the Weights and Measures Bill being passed into law as soon as possible and pointed out that this was one of the subjects brought forward for the earnest consideration of Government at the last session of the Assembly.

*Reply.*—The Bill referred to had to be dropped. But Government have not lost sight of the desirability of legislating on this subject. The matter will receive careful consideration, especially as it is now seen that the cry comes from all parts of the State.

**76. Disabilities of Christian converts in the matter of inheritance.**

*Mr. G. H. Gunther (Catholic Indian Association, Trivandrum* observed that this was one of the subjects brought forward at the last session of the Assembly, but one aspect of the question had not been brought to the notice of Government then, and that was that in British India including Malabar whose Marumakkathayam law was the same as that of Travancore, the disabilities complained of did at one time exist but were removed by the passing of Act XXI of 1850. Here, there was a Full Bench ruling that Hindu converts to Christianity could not claim inheritance. In the face of this ruling, it was doubtful whether relief could be afforded except by specific legislation. He, therefore, requested that a Regulation might be passed in this direction at an early date on the lines of the British Indian enactment.

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*Mr. Paul Daniel, M. A., L. T.*, (*Native Christian Association, South Travancore*) observed that religious toleration and freedom of conscience were the characteristics of all constitutional governments and these were seriously affected by the existing law which debarred Hindu converts to Christianity from enjoying their natural rights over property.

*Mr. Warkey John* (*Travancore and Cochin Roman Catholic Association, Kottayam*) supported the views of the previous speakers.

*Reply*.—Interference in matters relating to the law of inheritance is beset with numerous difficulties and it does not therefore seem expedient to Government to undertake legislation in the present circumstances of the country. This decision was arrived at by Government so long ago as 1898 after much discussion and consideration.

**77. Necessity for framing a law of inheritance for Native Christians.**

*Mr. C. P. Thomas, B. A., L. T.*,(*Travancore and Cochin Christian Association, Kottayam*) said that the present condition of the law of inheritance applicable to the Christian community in Travancore was of the most unsettled kind, and it was high time that steps were taken to place it on a sound and permanent basis. The High Court in some of their recent judgments had called pointed attention to the unsatisfactory state of this branch of the law at present and observed that legislation was necessary. Some of the judges were following what they considered were the practices sanctioned by customary law or ecclesiastical authority. Their opinions depended on those of the witnesses examined before them which, it must be said, varied with the character of the persons. Others were adopting the provisions of the Indian Succession Act, but it was clear that that piece of legislation was not framed to suit the Christians of Travancore, but was influenced by practices obtaining in other Christian communities having different traditions and living under different conditions. Individual action in the matter was not therefore likely to meet with general approval and acceptance. He therefore requested that a commission might be appointed to enquire into and report on the various customs obtaining in the several localities of the State and among the several sections of the community.

*Mr. Warkey John* (*Travancore and Cochin Roman Catholic Association, Kottayam*) *and Mr. Kesavan Padmanabhan* (*Mavelikara*) also spoke on the subject.

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